

## POCAHONTAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

Some Facts Gathered by the Class in History of the Edray District High School.

### INTRODUCTION

Within a few years after the historical settlement of Marlin and Sewell in Pocahontas, Virginians began to cross the mountains and settle. The beautiful section known now as Pocahontas County attracted its share of pioneers, and those true to the characteristic of all American pioneers established churches and schools almost immediately after their homes were built.

In some communities the school would be taught in a home, while in others the log school building—"The Old Field Schools," as they were called served the double purpose of church and schools.

This attempt at education is primitive and crude enough to us, but it has many virtues worthy of our respect. The thoroughness and earnestness with which they mastered the three R's was a trait of character indicative of the deep purpose to improve and to progress. Perseverance, sacrifice and hard work have built the modern schools of which we speak so proudly, and "lest we forget," we review here the development of education in Pocahontas. But the years will prove that the last chapter did not close the story; it is but the beginning.

### Progress of Education in Pocahontas County

#### Edray District

In this history of education in Pocahontas County we are going to consider each district separately. There are four districts in the county: Edray, Little Levels, Huntersville and Greenbank. We shall treat Edray first because it has the county seat and the largest high school; also the first school in the county was in this district.

Mrs. Bob Moore named Edray, a village four miles north of Marlinton, from a Bible name in Joshua 12: 4. "And the coast of Og, king of Bashan, which was of the remnant of the giants, that dwelt at Ashtaroth and at Edrei." The name was given to Edray District after the Civil War when the county was divided into districts.

The first school in Pocahontas County was taught in 1780 in the Drinnen cabin, which stood a few miles above Marlinton at the site of the present Fair Ground. The teacher was Henry Baker, who was killed in a raid made by a band of the Cat Indians in 1786. This tribe came from Pittsburgh. Usually the Indians who passed through Pocahontas came from the south, coming up the Ohio River and taking the Seneca Trail which passes through Marlinton.

This school, like all others, until after the Civil War was a "pay school." The term "pay school" meant that each student paid tuition. The amount was usually five cents a day, but in cases where money was unavailable its equivalent was paid in furs and similar articles.

The next school that we have any record of was taught at Campbelltown in 1800, at School-House Meadow. This schoolhouse was typical of the earliest school buildings, being built of rough hewn logs; the spaces between the logs were chinked with sticks and stones and daubed with

clay; the door was made of slabs and hung on wooden hinges; the floor, if any at all, was made of puncheons; the roof was made of clapboards, held in place by heavy poles; the seats were made of split logs, with pins driven in the round side for legs; and the building was heated by a rock fireplace which extended the entire length of one end of the room.

We do not know whether this school was taught continuously for forty-eight years, but the next authentic date we have is 1848, when the school was taken to the Pifer place at Riverside, probably to make it more central, as people were settling what was then called Marlins Bottom, now Marlinton. This school closed after a term of two years.

A school taught for a year or two at the present Isham Waugh place preceded the Price Hollow school, which, built in 1880, was the first public school at Marlinton, and commenced an unbroken series. Among its teachers were Mrs. Woodsey Moore, Miss Emma Warwick, Judge McClintic of Roanoke College, Dr. Wm. T. Price, D. D., A. M., A. B., Washington and Lee; J. A. McLaughlin and Charles C. Cook, A. B. Brown University.

A fact always associated with the old schools was the short terms. Three, or four months at the most, was the usual length in the eighties. Gradually the terms were lengthened until in 1910 the following school law in regard to the length of terms was passed by the State Legislature:

The board of education of every district and independent district shall provide the schools of its district a minimum school term in each year as follows: In the year 1910-1920, one hundred and twenty days; in the year 1920-21, one hundred and thirty days; in the year 1921-22, one hundred and forty days; in the year 1922-23, one hundred and fifty days; in the year 1923-24, and thereafter, one hundred sixty days. It is provided, however, that the board of education of any district or independent school district shall have authority to extend such minimum school term in any year for as many days in addition thereto as the board may determine. It is provided further, that if the proceeds of the regular levies authorized by law are insufficient to enable the board of education of any district to extend the term of school for a longer term than the minimum herein provided, such board may at any general election or at a special election submit to the qualified voters of the district the question of laying an additional levy for such extension of the school term, and if petitioned to do so by at least fifty taxpayers in any district, the board of education shall submit the question of such additional levy. If at any such election a majority of the votes cast on the question are in favor of such additional levy, it shall then be the duty of the board of education to make such extension and to levy on all the assessed valuation of property in the district such additional levies as may be necessary to pay the additional cost of the same. The term of school fixed by such election shall continue from year to year so long as a majority of the votes cast at the election at which the question of "school levy" is committed be in favor of such "school levy," or until the term so fixed shall be changed by a majority vote of the people in such district. The schools shall be open to all youth between the ages of six and twenty one for the full length of the school term provided in this district.

The Price Hollow school had a three month term, but as a supplement to it, some of the people hired a teacher and had an extra

ession in the old McLaughlin house. The first of these started in 1873 and continued until 1891, when Miss Anna Wallace taught the last school there.

In 1892 the Pocahontas Military Academy started in the old Bank Building on the site where the Marlin-Sewell Hotel now stands, and was moved to the building which is now Harlow Waugh's store. It was divided into two departments: the grades, which Miss Annie King taught, and a higher course, corresponding to high school, taught by the principal, A. M. Byrd, from Bath County. Between thirty and forty students attended this Academy. They wore gray uniforms, trimmed with black braid and used old Confederate rifles for arms. The Pocahontas Military Academy, and really the first high school in Marlinton, closed in 1894.

As the Price Hollow school was too small to accommodate these extra students, the Irvine school was built east of the river to take some of the extra pupils from Price Hollow. This, being a two room frame building was a great improvement over the previous schools. It was used until the two schools were consolidated in 1907 in the eight room brick building, then used for the grades and one year of high school, now used for the grades.

EDRAY DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL  
The Edray District High School had its beginning in a few classes in high school subjects in the graded school building. The present graded building was erected in 1907 and a one-year course in high school work was established with Mr. Burns still acting as instructor. The curriculum was gradually enlarged until in 1914-15, when Mr. T. M. Martin was principal, a three-year course was given.

While the new high school was being built, in the winter of 1915, the classes were conducted in the Court House. It was this year that the amount of work required for graduation was raised to four years or sixteen credits. Since then the standards have reached the requirements of a class A high school, and is considered one of the best small schools in the state.

While the new high school building afforded many advantages it was strongly opposed, being considered much too large and expensive. However, its growth has been so great during the decade since its establishment that now it is much too small and plans are being developed for a large addition, in which will be the long wished for gymnasium.

RURAL SCHOOLS OF EDRAY DISTRICT  
ELK SCHOOL  
The first school on Elk was a small, round log building with a stone chimney, five to six feet wide, characteristic of the majority of small schools at that time. It was built on John B. Hannah's farm in 1832. The second school was on Bill Sharp's farm at Flat Rock in 1838. The third school, on Davy Gibson's farm in 1842, was taught in a building which was also used for a church. The term was 3 months long. The students paid between \$1.00 and \$1.50 per month and the teacher boarded around at the different homes. Sam Moore and Helmick were the first teachers.

The fourth school was taught in a new building on John D. Hannah's farm in 1867. This was a frame building with four small windows, puncheon seats, no desks and a crude, home made black-board. Geography, Arithmetic, Grammar, Spelling, Reading, and Writing were taught. Among the first teachers were Montgomery Mathews, James Barnette and Sam Buzzard.

The fifth school was on Silas Sharp's farm in 1873. The progress of schools is shown by the fact that this building had glass windows, seats with backs and desks. Maggie Moore, Mamie Armintrout, Bill Snedegar and Mr. Byers were among the first teachers.

The sixth school was on Jake Moore's farm in 1878. It was taught in a frame building, which is still in use. The seventh school was on Robert Gibson's farm in 1887; eighth school at Slaty Fork in 1890 with Mr. Wise, Rella Clark and Dennis Williams as teachers; ninth school near Pleasant Valley; tenth school in 1915 with Maud Smith as teacher; eleventh school at Slaty Fork in 1922 with Ruth Moore as teacher.

YEW GLADE  
The first school building at Yew Glade was erected in 1892. The school at that time was very small and was only attended by children from three families. The first teacher was Miss Claudia Dysard, who was succeeded by Miss Emma Burner.

During the third term the building burned down and was replaced that summer.

BUCKEYE  
The school at Buckeye was the first in the county to be supported by public funds after the Civil War. It is true that Va. had appropriated a fund to pay the tuition of four out of every hundred pupils, but with the exceptions of this the schools received no state aid.

This school was taught in Bethel Church in 1865-66. Mr. J. E. Addison was the teacher for the three month term. After that it seems to have been moved to the Red Mill, where it gained a reputation as an excellent school. At one time there was 40 pupils, some of whom came from Campbelltown, Millpoint and Huntersville.

## CHURCH NOTES

### MARLINTON METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. S. R. Neel, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:45 a. m.  
A. S. Overholt, Supt.  
7:15 p. m. Epworth League  
Preaching at 11 a. m. and 8:00 p. m. by the Pastor.  
Prayer and praise service Wednesday evening at 7:30 o'clock. A cordial welcome to all.

### OAK GROVE CHURCH

Rev. J. C. Johnson, Pastor  
10:00 a. m. Sunday School  
C. W. Kennison, Supt.  
Andrew McLaughlin, Asst. Supt.  
11:00 a. m. Preaching and celebration of the Lord's Supper.  
3:00 p. m. Preaching Stamping Creek  
7:30 p. m. Christian Endeavor.

### MARLINTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Harvey H. Orr, Pastor.  
Bible School 9:45  
5:30 p. m. Junior Christian Endeavor  
7:15 p. m. Senior Christian Endeavor  
11:00 a. m. In the Fear of the Lord  
3:00 p. m. Preaching at Warwick  
8:00 p. m. As day, so Strength.

Sunday School attendance at the Methodist Church last Sunday, 178; at the Presbyterian 153.  
There will be preaching at the home of James Dinkie at Warwick, next Sunday afternoon at three o'clock by Rev. H. H. Orr.

### CLASS SUPPER

The Overcomers' Sunday School Class and the Intermediate Missionary Society of the Methodist Church will give a supper in the new Bank room at the Hotel, Friday evening July 10, beginning at 5:30 o'clock.

### MENU

Salad Course—Chicken salad; potato chips, olives, bread and butter sandwiches, coffee or ice tea.—65c.  
Sandwiches—Ham, olive, cheese and paneto, ground beef.—15c.  
Ice Cream—Chocolate, vanilla, caramel and brick.—10c and 15c.  
Beverages—Lemonade, buttermilk, coffee and ice tea.  
Cake (10c) and Candy.  
Come, and help a good cause.

## W. C. T. U. SOCIAL

The Women's and Men's Bible Classes, the Young Ladies' Bible Classes, the Teachers and Officers of the various Sunday Schools of the town are cordially invited to attend the Women's Christian Temperance Union Social in the basement of the Marlinton Methodist Church, Tuesday evening July 14, at eight o'clock. A free will offering for the Flower Mission Department will be asked.

There will be a demonstration of the Sunday School forces of Pocahontas County in the way of a parade at the County Fair, Wednesday, August 19th at eleven o'clock a. m. Each Sunday School of the county is expected take part and carry an appropriate banner of the school. The procession will be led by the band. Then will come the State and County officers, Edray District officers and forces, Greenbank District, Huntersville District and Little Levels District, all with officers and entire Sunday School forces. It is urgently requested that all of the County and District officers take active charge of this, the greatest array of Christian workers ever assembled in this county.

It is requested that the pastors and Sunday School superintendents make announcement of this each Sunday and that each school will begin to arrange an appropriate banner to be carried in the parade. Further announcement will be made through the paper and elsewhere, but begin now to make your arrangements and do not forget the date, Wednesday, August 19, 11 a. m. just after the judging of the stock.

Pocahontas County Council of Religious Education,  
Ira D. Brill, President,  
F. M. Snyder, Secretary.

## MINNEHAHA HOTEL

MINNEHAHA SPRINGS, W. VA.  
Now open. Special attention to automobile parties who give notice of their arrival.

### FOR SALE

B. M. Yeager residence property in Marlinton, consisting of 14 lots and large residence containing 12 rooms and bath, good outbuildings, splendid location, good street and sidewalks. For further information apply to  
P. B. Yeager  
Box 109, Pulaski, Va.

### PIE SUPPER

There will be a pie supper at Slaty Fork school house Saturday night July 11, beginning at 7:30. Also ice cream and lemonade. Everybody cordially invited, come and have a good time. Proceeds for the preacher.

Lula McCloud  
Ruth Gibson  
Ruby Hannah  
Committee

### NOTICE

We hereby notify all parties not to trespass on our property in any way by gathering berries or hunting. Anyone doing so will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.  
B. M. Gum & Sons  
Cass, W. Va.

## THE FOURTH

Safe and sane and a general good time describes the Fourth at the Pocahontas County Fair Grounds. Nearly three thousand people were on the grounds.

There were horse shoe games, trap shooting, band music, stunts by the children, swimming, boating, horse-racing and other track events, a squad of soldiers in uniform, picnic dinner on the ground for some; moving pictures and fire works at night.

The good old sport of pitching horse shoes created a lot of interest, and the game is coming back. Charley Barlow, of Edray, was high man, with Buck Roberts and Jesse Buchanan in second and third places. So popular was this feature that arrangements are being made to have horse shoe pitching every day of the Fair and a grand exhibition on the last day of the Fair.

In the trap shooting Harry A. Sharp won over Floyd Baxter by a slight margin, with Fred Allen in third place.

In the all day saddle class the blue ribbon went to Guy Harlow and his mount "Billy Barlow," and then came Andy Helper on "Mag," and E. F. McLaughlin on "Lady." Half mile dash—black boy ridden by Moody Johnson, and Rose Bud ridden by Clarence Tyree.  
Free for all pace—Homer S. driven by Z. S. Smith, Jr., Honey Bee driven by Wm. Tate, Spark Plug driven by Lawrence Powers.  
Free for all trot—Peter Powers driven by Lawrence Powers; Dora Howell driven by Pat Gay; Laura Coney driven by Wm. Tate.

Tournament—William Harless, Z. S. Smith, Jr. and Frank McLaughlin. The children of the Daily Vacation Bible school, attended in a body under the leadership of Miss Virginia Lewis. There were about one hundred of them. Their stunts and songs were very interesting and highly entertaining.

### IN MEMORY

Mrs. Mary E. (Hannah) Beverage, wife of John A. Beverage, born on Elk, March 19, 1848 passed quietly away at her home near Clover Lick, June 29, 1925. Aged seventy-seven years, three months, ten days.

She had been in failing health for some time and taken seriously ill in April, for the last two weeks she had been wholly bedfast and her suffering was very tense. Her family and many friends did all that could be done for her comfort.

Very early in life Mrs. Beverage professed faith in Christ and united with the M. E. Church and remained a faithful member until the end. Amid her suffering she praised God, asked her friends to read special Scriptures and pray with her. She was a loyal wife, a kind, loving mother and a friend to all those who knew her. Her kindness and care for the family and home was all that could be desired.

She is survived by her son Harper W. and her grandson Earl Beverage, a brother Samuel Hannah, of Elk, and a host of friends.

The funeral services were conducted at the home on Tuesday afternoon by Rev. Miles. Her body was laid to rest in the family graveyard on her farm.

We extend our sympathy to the bereaved ones in this sad hour. Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord, Yea, saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

Word was received last Thursday by Mrs. J. L. Sheets that her sister, Mrs. Ruthia Simmons Sheets had died in a hospital at Slaty Fork, New Mexico, July 1, 1925, of some tubercular trouble. She is survived by her husband, J. D. Sheets.

Died July 2, 1925—David Warwick Sharp, of near Marlinton. His age was 62 years 3 months and 3 days. His older brother Henry Sharp, of Millpoint having preceded him to the grave one month ago. He is survived by one brother, Jim Sharp, of near Marlinton. The deceased leaves to mourn his loss eleven children by his first wife. They are: John, Hattie, Dexter, Levia, Cliff Ford, Fred, Frank, Pearl, Dennis, Lock and Howard. His first wife was Amanda Beverage, who departed this life about 10 years ago. About 8 years ago he married Mrs. Nancy Beverage, who survives. She cared for him almost as a mother would a child since January when he suffered a stroke of paralysis. On June 29th he suffered the second stroke which caused the end of his earthly life.

Funeral services were conducted at his home by Rev. H. H. Orr and Rev. J. L. Hogsett and the Moose Lodge.

He made a profession of faith some time before his death and had expressed his willingness to go when he was called. A large congregation attended the services. He was laid to rest in the Sharp graveyard.

Married, July 3, 1925, Harry Curry and Miss Virgie Nottingham, both of Nottingham. The bride is a daughter of Austin Nottingham and the groom a son of Frank Curry.

Colonel E. G. Holesapple was badly hurt in attempting to jump on a moving work train at Renick Monday evening. He was slammed against the caboose and his back and leg hurt. He is in the railroad hospital at Clifton Forge.

## We Buy In Large Quantities

Wall Plaster, Cement, Nails, Wire Fence, Roofing, Feed, Flour, Hay, Stone Ware, Sugar, Salt, Dairy Rations and many other items and are in position to give you the very best prices and terms on anything in our line.

## The Peoples Store & Supply Co.

Marlinton, West Virginia

### MUSTER DAY

Pocahontas county contributed its quota in the 1925 Defence Day test. The Reserve Officers in charge reported to Fifth Corps Area Headquarters an enrollment of 150 one-day volunteers assigned to the 329th Wagon Company of the 397th Infantry, headquarters Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Muster Day is designed to illustrate the military machinery in operation, in the event of a national emergency calling for mobilization of the armed forces.

In connection with the local celebration, a color guard of one day volunteers was paraded at the Fair Ground; speeches on patriotic subjects, particularly in explanation of the motives and operation of the National Defence Day; and reading of the Declaration of Independence in the Grand Stand at 8 p. m.

Guys Mills, Pa.—Fine growing weather: corn, oats, and wheat are looking fine; wheat harvest will be on hands in a few days.—Mr. and Mrs. Frank Galford and daughters, Hazel, Frances and Catherine spent last Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Ervin. Harry Gum is contemplating a trip to Pocahontas during the Fair.

L. H. Ervin and son Edward, who have been working for the Bunal Construction Co., spent the week end at home. We wonder what has happened to Greenbank and Oak Grove correspondents; we would like to hear from them.

Bloom is now appearing on chestnut trees at a certain elevation—the frostless belt. On the bottom and on the river ridges, there is no sign of bloom, but around three thousand feet elevation the trees are white. In Whitrow McClintic's orchard orchard the trees through the middle have a crop of fruit, but the trees below and above certain lines have no fruit.

John Landee, a farmer living near Marlinton, has a turkey hen which laid sixty-five eggs before she went to setting this spring. This sounds like a record to us.

County court was in session on Tuesday. Miss Nellie Maupin qualified as notary public. A great many accounts were audited and allowed.

### FROST

Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Schofield and Dr. G. M. Jordan spent a few days in Roncoverte and Lewisburg last week. Mr. Schofield is thinking of locating at Roncoverte.

Richard Gibson and sister Miss Veva are spending a few weeks in Indiana visiting their uncle, Samuel Gibson.

Mrs. Morrison, of Renick, spent a few weeks with her daughter Mrs. Mitchell Sharp. On her return she was accompanied by her daughter who will spend a few weeks with friends.

Mrs. A. A. Sharp and children are spending some time with her sister, Mrs. Schofield at Raywood.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Emms Moore, a daughter.

Mrs. E. G. Sharp has returned from the Charlottesville hospital. She is very much improved in health.

Bedford Curry who has been in the Marlinton hospital for some time is home.

### JUNE WEATHER

Mean maximum 78.6 degrees; mean minimum 51 degrees; mean 66.3; maximum 88 degrees on the 2nd and 3rd; minimum 44 degrees on 1st and 2nd; greatest daily range 44 on the 2nd. Total rainfall 4.38 inches; greatest in 24 hours 1.12 inches on 5th and 6th. Days with .01 inch or more precipitation 13; clear 6, partly cloudy 21, cloudy 3; thunderstorms 2, 5, 6, 7, 16, 17, 18; hail on 5th and 7th.

S. L. Brown  
Cooperative Observer

Notice the great array of pictures that Manager Clendenen of the Seneca Theatre is presenting in a special Anniversary Week. This is an especially good program booked for this occasion.

Pocahontas County Teachers Institute at Marlinton on the week beginning Monday August 31.

Harold Lloyed is in "Hot Water" at the Seneca Theatre Thursday of next week.

## "Nobody Can Say I Wasted My Money"

Peter DePaolo—1925 Indianapolis Race Winner

This statement from the young race driver, who purchased a Buick a week after he wheeled, his car to victory at Indianapolis and broke the record of that famous Speedway, sums up the nation-wide opinion of Buick.

For, just as DePaolo recognizes the superiority of valve-in-head engines for the race track and personal use, so too have more than a million every-day motorists recognized the dependability and performance of Buick and the Valve-in-Head type of engine upon which Buick has concentrated for 21 years.

DePaolo bought a new Buick with part of the \$39,000 prize money that he won on the Indianapolis Speedway and drove it to Altoona where he won the 250 mile race. He bought it with the motor car expert's discriminative eye for performance, for dependability and for genuine value. And his purchase, made solely because he has tried Buick and tested its performance for himself, is further evidence of the regard in which Buick is so universally held.

BUICK MOTOR COMPANY, FLINT, MICHIGAN  
Dealers

REXRODE & BRILL  
MARLINTON, W. VA.

## Genuine Imported English Broadcloth

The shirt which is now out-selling every other material, can be bought right at home, delivered for \$2.00 each or three for \$5.85. This is a good quality broadcloth, and we defy comparison, at the price. We have them in white, tan and grey.

See what you are getting before you pay a cent—no waiting—buy from your local dealer, who makes it his business to know values.

## THE MEN'S SHOP

Specialists in Men's Wear  
MARLINTON, W. VA.